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FLORIDA
AGRICULTURE

FIELD CROPS

Crop Production

August 13, 2001

FLORIDA

FLORIDA: Frequent rains during July replenished topsoil and subsoil moisture supplies in most areas. Warm temperatures during the period boosted field crop development with corn, cotton, peanuts, soybeans and sugarcane rated in good to excellent condition by August 1. Tobacco harvesting remained active in July and through early August. In early August, cotton fields showed uneven development caused by erratic germination due to dry soils when planted. Oldest cotton plants reached the maximum height for mechanical pickers by early August, pointing to an early harvest. The wet weather delayed some hay making. The formation of Tropical Storm Barry off the southwestern coast in early August provided ample rains to many Peninsula localities. The storm brought winds and rains to many Panhandle areas as the storm made landfall between Laguna Beach and Destin early Monday morning, August 6, shortly after midnight. Although the storm may have caused some damage to crops, the extent is still being assessed by producers.

COTTON: Growers expect to average 650 pounds per acre from 124,000 acres to be picked. This compares with 480 pounds per acre averaged from 106,000 acres harvested last year. Industry reports indicate that most acreage planted for the 2001 crop will be picked. Production is expected to total 168,000 bales, over one and a half time bigger than last year's crop of 106,000 bales.

PEANUTS: Producers indicate that 87,000 acres will be dug in 2001, up 1,000 acres or one percent from the 86,000 acres harvested

in 2000. Yield per acre is expected to average 2,800 pounds, up 315 pounds or almost 13 percent from the 2,485 pounds averaged last year. Production is set at 243,600,000 pounds, up 29,890,000 pounds or 14 percent from the 213,710,000 pounds produced in 2000. Growers reported that 95 percent of the flowers pegged by early August.

SUGARCANE FOR SUGAR AND SEED: The mostly warm and moist weather promoted growth and development of the crop during July and early August. Acreage to be harvested for sugar and seed during the 2001-2002 season is set at 465,000 acres, down 4,000 acres or almost one percent from the July estimate. Production is set at 16,740,000 pounds, down 305,000 pounds or two percent from last year's production of 17,045,000 pounds. Yield is expected to average 36 tons per acre compared with 38.3 tons per acre average last year.

TOBACCO: Producers expect to average 2,600 pounds per acre, up 50 pounds from the 2,550 pounds averaged last year and 110 pounds per acre or four percent higher than the July forecast. Production during 2001 is expected to total 11,700,000 pounds from 4,500 acres to be harvested. In 2000, 11,475,000 pounds were harvested from 4,500 acres. Harvesting remained active throughout July and into early August.

UNITED STATES

CORN FOR GRAIN: Corn production is forecast at 9.27 billion bushels, down 7 percent from last year and 2 percent from 1999. Based on conditions as of August 1, yields are expected to average 133.9 bushels per acre, down 3.2 bushels from last year. If realized, this would be the lowest production since 1997. Yields are mostly lower than 2000 in the central and eastern Corn Belt as well as the southern Plains. Mostly higher yields were reported in the western Corn Belt and Southeast where corn crop is rebounding from drought conditions last year. Farmers expect to harvest 69.2 million acres of corn for grain, down 100,000 acres from June and 5 percent from 2000.

COTTON: All cotton production is forecast at 20.0 million 480-pound bales, up 16 percent from 2000. The yield is expected to average 670 pounds per harvested acre, up 38 pounds from last year. If realized, this would be the largest production on record. The record production is a combination of the second highest harvested acreage since 1962, coupled with above average yields throughout most of the cotton belt. Nationwide, producers expect to harvest 14.3 million acres, 10 percent above last year.

PEANUTS: Production is forecast at 3.66 billion pounds, up 12 percent from last year's crop, but 4 percent below 1999. Area for harvest is expected to total 1.40 million acres, 3 percent below the previous estimate, but up 4 percent from 2000. Yields are expected to average 2,621 pounds, 177 pounds above last year but down 46 pounds from 1999. Production in the Southeast States (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina) is expected to total 2.06 billion pounds, up 12 percent from last year's level. Expected acreage for harvest, at 763,500 acres, is down 1 percent from the previous year. Yields in the four-State area are expected to average 2,704 pounds per acre, 311 pounds above 2000.

SUGARCANE: Production is forecast at a record-high 37.1 million tons, 3 percent above the previous record of 36.1 million tons set last year. If realized, Louisiana's production will be 11 percent greater than the previous record set in 1999, and surpass Florida as the largest sugarcane producing State. Sugarcane growers intend to harvest a record high 1.05 million acres for sugar and seed during the 2001 crop year, 2 percent more than last year. Louisiana expects to harvest a record high 510,000 acres. While yield is 33.0 tons per acre, 0.3 ton above the previous record high set in 1999.

TOBACCO: All tobacco production for 2001 is forecast at 1.01 billion pounds, down 4 percent from 2000 and 22 percent below 1999. If realized, this will be the smallest crop since 1921. Revised area for harvest in 2001 is forecast at 451,290 acres, down 4 percent from 2000. Yields for 2001 are expected to average 2,230 pounds per acre, just 1 pound higher than a year ago. Yield prospects in North Carolina, the leading tobacco producing State, are averaging lower than last year by 99 pounds. However, Kentucky, the second leading State, expects yields to average 80 pounds higher than a year ago. Flue-cured production is expected to total 573 million pounds, down 4 percent from 2000. Growers plan to harvest 247,500 acres in 2001, one percent below last year. Yields are expected to average 2,313 pounds per acre, 83 pounds lower than the previous year.

SOYBEANS: Production is forecast at a record high 2.87 billion bushels, up 4 percent from 2000, and 8 percent from 1999. Based on August 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 38.7 bushels per acre, up 0.6 bushel from 2000. This is the third highest yield behind 38.9 bushels per acre in 1997 and 1998. Yields are mostly higher than last year in the Great Plains, Southeast, and lower Mississippi Valley. However, yields are down in the western Corn Belt and Atlantic Coast States. Area planted, at a record 75.2 million acres, is down slightly from June, but up 1 percent from last year. Acres for harvest, at a record 74.1 million acres, are up 2 percent from the 2000 acreage.

HAY: Production of Alfalfa and Alfalfa mixtures for hay is forecast at 80.2 million tons, virtually unchanged from 2000. Yields are expected to average 3.38 tons per acre, 0.10 ton below last year. Harvested area is 23.8 million acres, up 3 percent from 2000. Other hay production is forecast at 78.1 million tons, 9 percent above last year's production. Yields are expected to average 1.95 tons per acre, equivalent to last year's yield. Harvested area is estimated at 40.1 million acres, up 9 percent from the 36.8 million acres harvested in 2000.

ALL WHEAT: Production is placed at 1.98 billion bushels, up 1 percent from the July forecast but down 11 percent from 2000. Based on August 1 conditions, the U.S. yield is forecast at 40.2 bushels per acre, up 0.2 bushel from last month.

Crop production: Acreage for harvest and forecasts of yield and production for Florida and United States as of August 1, 2001 with comparisons

Crop	Harvested acreage		Yield per acre		Unit	Production	
	2000	For harvest 2001	2000	Indicated 2001		2000	Indicated 2001
	Thousands		Units			Thousands	
FLORIDA							
Cotton	106	124	480	650	^{1/}	106	168
Peanuts	86	87	2,485	2,800	Lbs.	213,710	243,600
Potatoes:							
Winter ^{2/}	8.0	5.0	260	240	Cwt	2,080	1,200
Spring ^{2/}	21.5	22.0	295	270	Cwt	6,343	5,940
Sugarcane	445	465	38.3	36.0	Ton	17,045	16,740
Tobacco, Type 14	4.5	4.5	2,550	2,600	Lbs.	11,475	11,700
UNITED STATES							
Corn for grain	72,732	69,191	137.1	133.9	Bu.	9,968,358	9,266,397
Cotton, all ^{4/}	13,053	14,338	632	670	^{1/}	17,188.3	20,003.0
Hay, all	59,854	63,833	2.54	2.48	Ton	152,183	158,241
Peanuts for nuts	1,336.0	1,395.5	2,444	2,621	Lbs.	3,265,505	3,657,950
Potatoes:							
Winter ^{2/}	17	14	292	285	Cwt	4,960	3,990
Spring ^{2/}	75.6	72.5	290	269	Cwt	21,921	19,500
Summer ^{2/}	61.8	59.1	303	305	Cwt	18,698	18,047
Fall ^{2/}	1,197.2	1,089.2	393	^{5/}	Cwt	470,504	^{5/}
Rice	3,039	3,223	6,281	6,151	^{3/}	190,872	198,237
Sorghum for grain	7,723	8,777	60.9	62.0	Bu.	470,070	544,138
Soybeans for beans	72,718	74,137	38.1	38.7	Bu.	2,769,665	2,867,474
Sugarbeets	1,374.3	1,329.5	23.6	21.1	Ton	32,436	28,034
Sugarcane for							
sugar and seed	1,025.7	1,045.2	35.2	35.5	Ton	36,117	37,140
Tobacco, All	472.4	451.3	2,229	2,230	Lbs.	1,052,998	1,006,201
Tobacco, Type 14	35.5	31.5	2,262	2,343	Lbs.	80,295	73,800
Wheat, all	53,028	49,331	41.9	40.2	Bu.	2,223,440	1,984,575
Winter	35,022	31,657	44.6	43.8	Bu.	1,562,733	1,385,048
Durum	3,572	2,975	30.7	30.9	Bu.	109,805	91,829
Other spring	14,434	14,699	38.2	34.5	Bu.	550,902	507,698

^{1/} Yield in pounds, production in 480 pound net weight bales. ^{2/} Estimates for current year carried forward from earlier forecast. ^{3/} Yield in pounds, production in hundredweight. ^{4/} Includes both upland and Amer-Pima cotton. ^{5/} First forecast in November.